

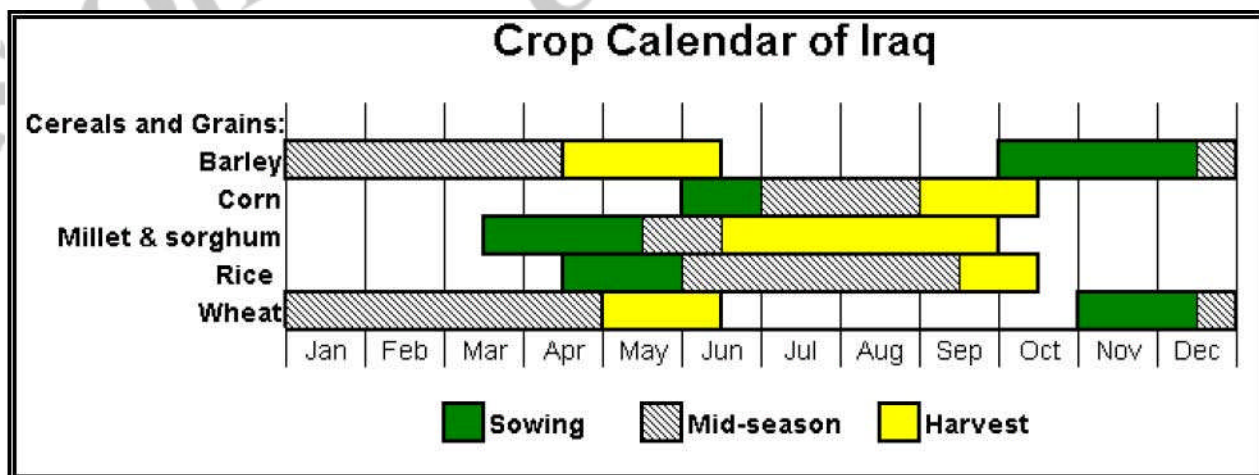
FAS – Office of Global Analysis (OGA)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
International Operational Agriculture Monitoring Program



November Report – Week 2

November 14th, 2008

1. Compared to previous years, the October cumulative rainfall for MY 2009/10 was a significant event with temperatures ranging at or slightly below normal (Figures 1 & 2). These are optimal conditions for sowing the rainfed winter grains crop. However, the first half of November is marked by persistent dry conditions that are forecasted to continue throughout the week (Figures 3).
2. Crop models are showing a rapid decrease in surface soil moisture between the months of October and November (Figure 4). Surface soil moisture levels of 15mm – 20mm will initiate vigorous start of season field activity, but levels below 10mm are less likely to support seed germination and early crop establishment.
3. Due to drought conditions over the past year, soil moisture reserves are extremely low and less likely to support healthy root establishment without adequate rainfall (Figure 5). The October rainfall provided a temporary boost in soil moisture levels, but the dry conditions that are following into November could have negative impacts on potential crop growth and yield. Large producing governorates in the north, especially Ninawa, will likely require additional rainfall to establish their winter grains crop before the sowing season closes in mid-December.



FAS – Office of Global Analysis (OGA)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
International Operational Agriculture Monitoring Program

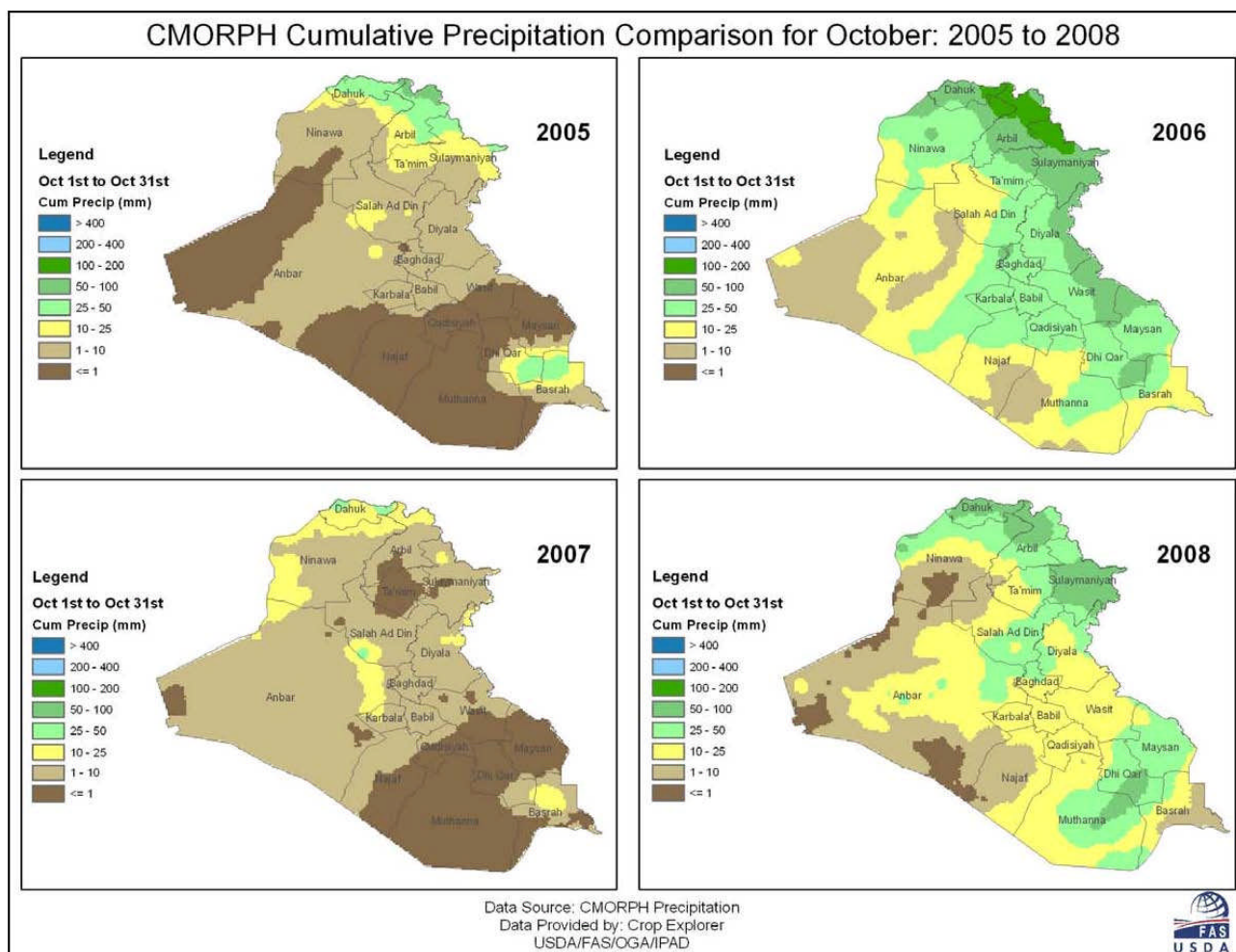


Figure 1: 4-year comparison of CMORPH cumulative precipitation data during the month of October.

FAS – Office of Global Analysis (OGA)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
International Operational Agriculture Monitoring Program

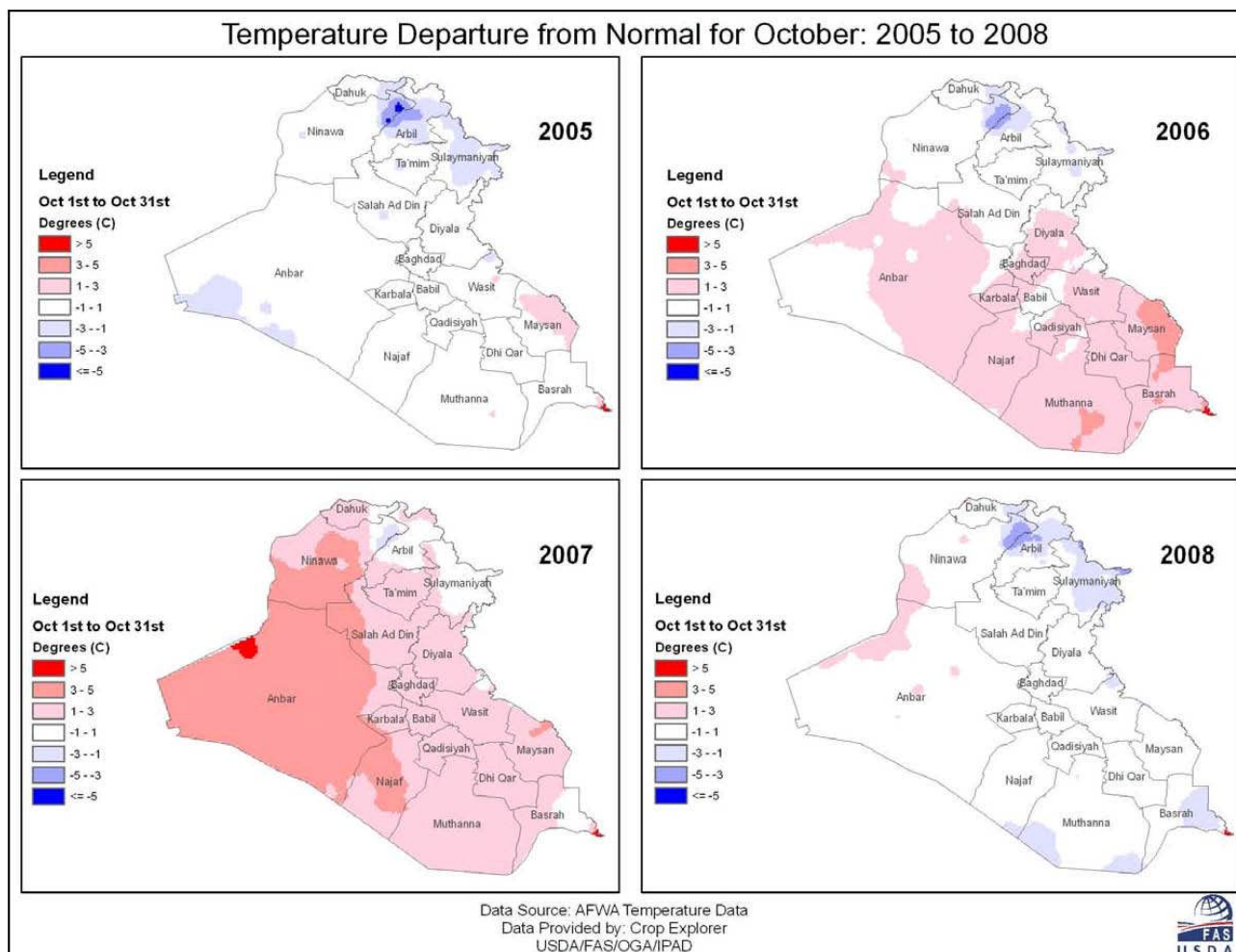


Figure 2: 4-year comparison of AFWA temperature data during the month of October.

FAS – Office of Global Analysis (OGA)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
International Operational Agriculture Monitoring Program

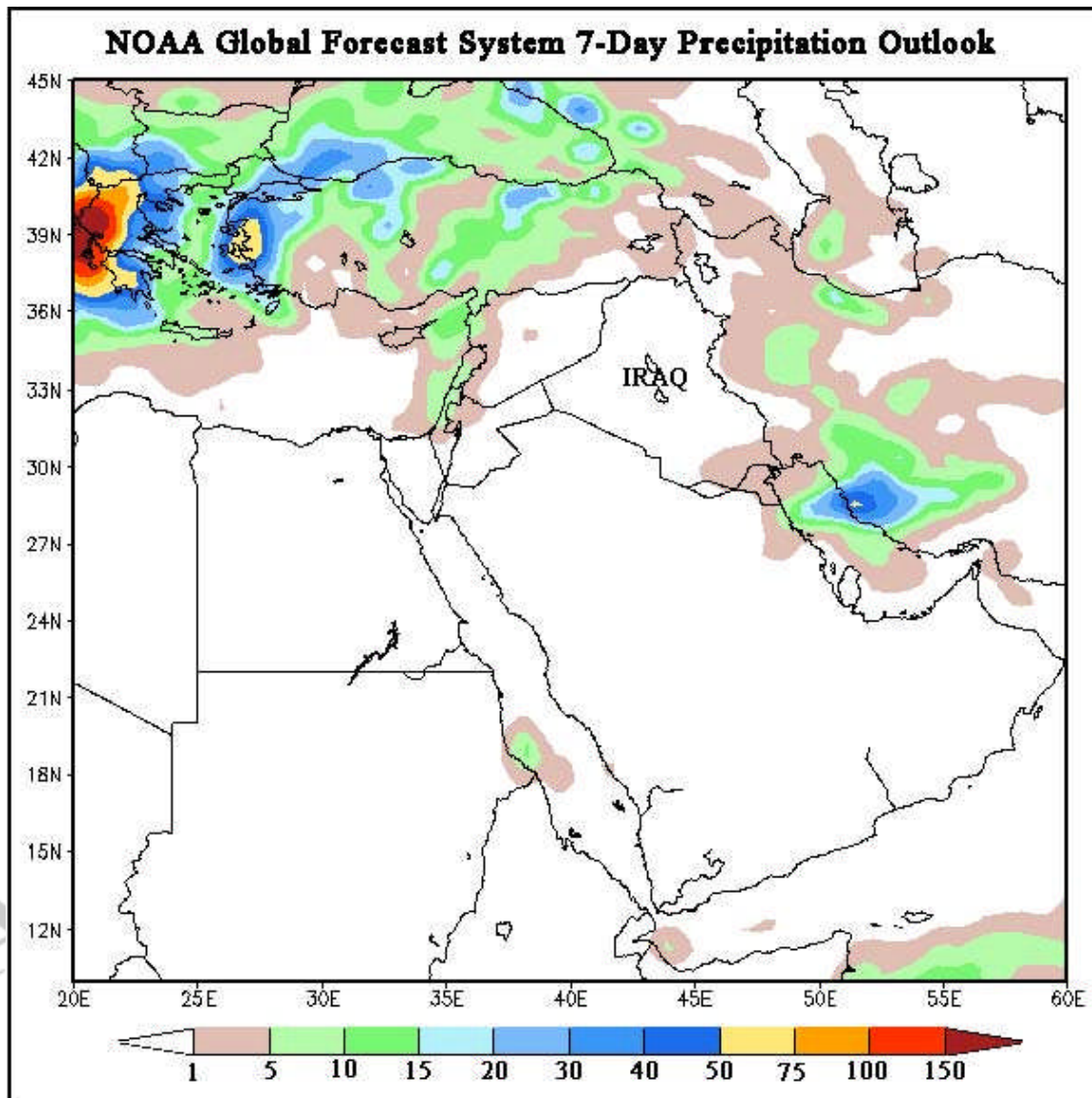


Figure 3: NOAA GFS 7-day precipitation outlook. Dry conditions persist into the 3rd week of November.

FAS – Office of Global Analysis (OGA)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
International Operational Agriculture Monitoring Program

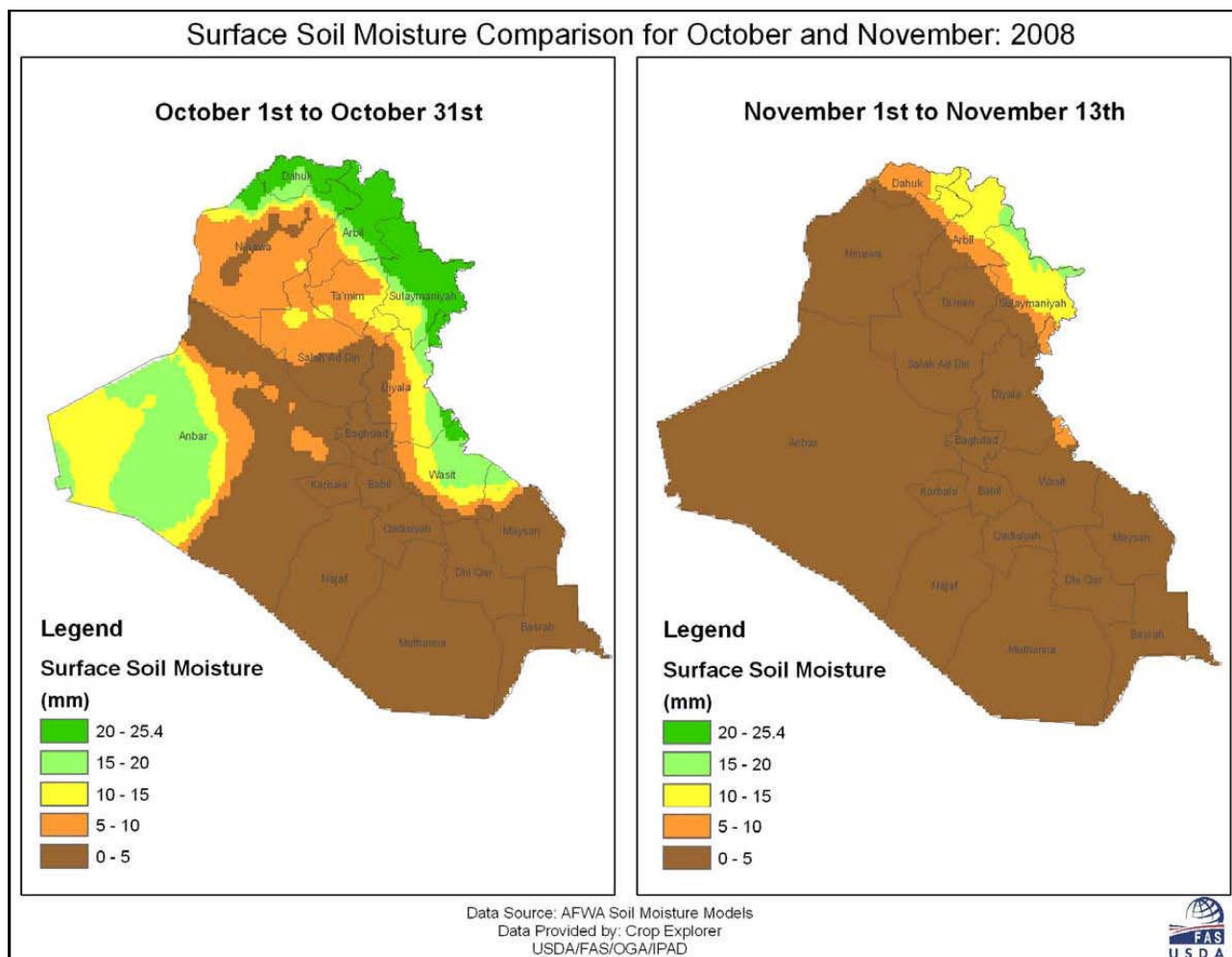


Figure 4: Surface soil moisture profile for the months of October and November. 15mm and above are optimal for seed sowing and establishment.

FAS – Office of Global Analysis (OGA)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
International Operational Agriculture Monitoring Program

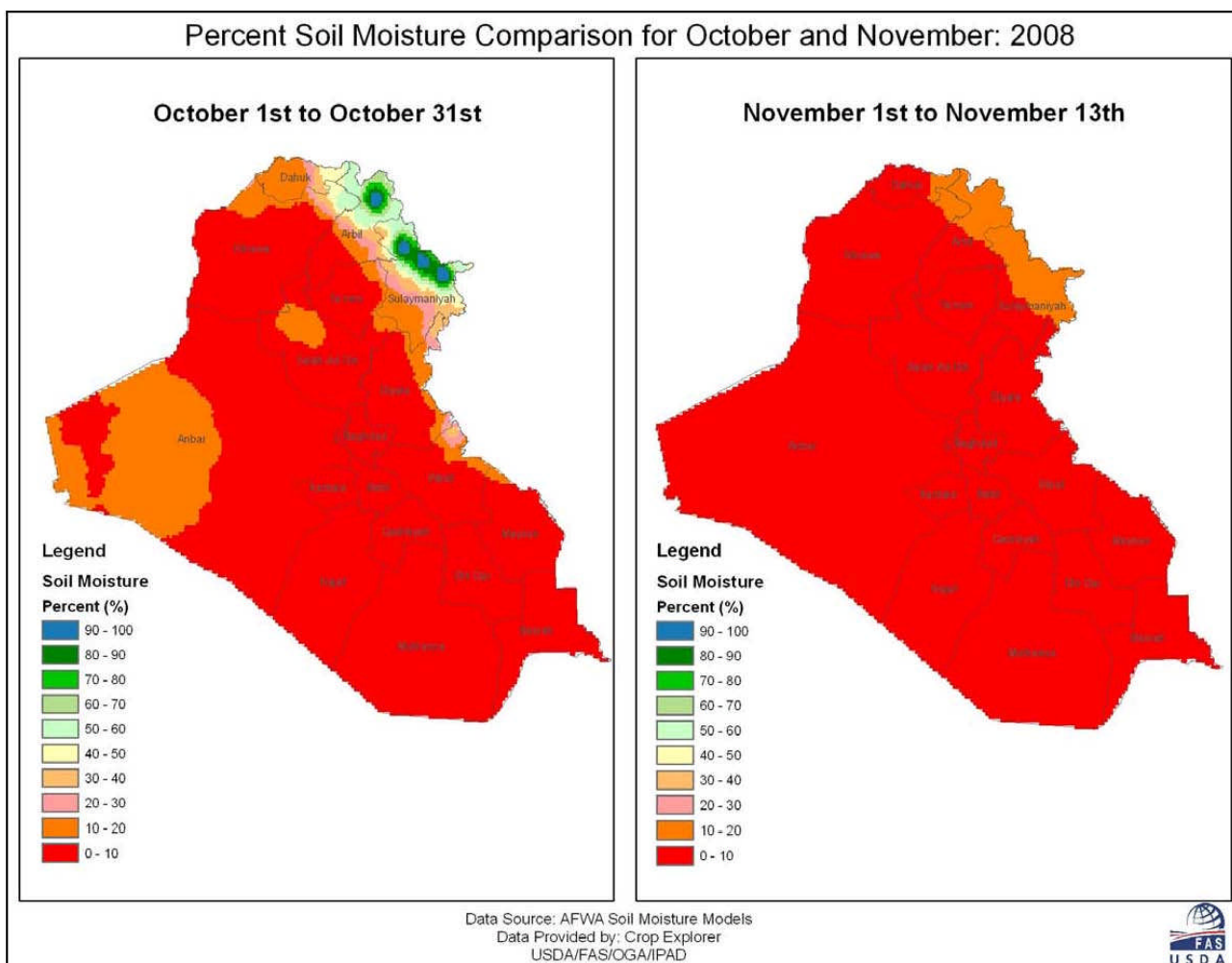


Figure 5: Percent soil moisture depicts water holding capacity for root growth. 30% and above is optimal for healthy plant growth and yield.